

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

No. 119

With which is incorporated
The International Socialist Review for Australasia

SYDNEY: AUGUST 3, 1912

Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney,
for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

PRICE, ONE PENNY.

CONSCRIPTION.

[FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST.]

BY SYDNEY PARTIDGE.

It was a fine blue day,
And all the world was gay,
Heart o' me,
They brought him home to me—
Oh I laughed merrily—
Son o' me.

Look you—the eyes o' him
Starin'—blood to the brim—
Heart o' me,
That morn a conscript brave,
This night gone to his grave.
Son o' me.

They forced him from his home,
And nevermore he'll come
Back to me,
It is a fine blue day,
But all the world is grey,
Son o' me—son o' me.

The Passing Show.

In A.D. 1720 Taylors' (Tailors') Combination was prohibited by law.

In A.D. 1711 Privy Council tried to suppress combination.

Act 7 Geo. I. c. 13 forbids the giving or receiving of wages in excess of a maximum.

The Statute of 1305 (33 Ed. I. st. 2) was in 1818 held to apply to a combination of cotton spinners, whose leaders were sentenced to two years' imprisonment for trying to raise wages.

At one time a worker was liable to three months' imprisonment for leaving his work. On the other hand, the employer could always shut up his workshop and leave his workers.

In all the history of repression of workmen, there is no case on record in which an employer was punished for combination.

In 1834, during the farm laborers' lockout near Chipping Norton, two justices, both clergymen, sent sixteen laborers' wives, some with babies at their breasts, to prison with hard labor for intimidating non-union men. In the same year five agricultural laborers were sentenced to seven years' transportation to Botany Bay.

On Sept. 2, 1872, Dr. Ellicot, Bishop of Gloucester, speaking at the Gloucester Agricultural Society, suggested the horse-pond as a fit destination for the agitators or delegates sent by the union to open new branches.

In April, 1820, a Government spy induced a hundred desperate weavers to march towards Carron, and after a weary trudge the starving band were attacked by cavalry from Stirling. Three of the alleged ring-leaders were tried and executed.

In July, 1912, the Wellington (N.Z.) Trades Hall Council wrote to the Sydney Trades Hall Council stating that the Council could not countenance or advise the Sydney body to support the Waihi miners on strike. The Sydney Council promptly turned Waihi miners' delegate Hickey away empty-handed.

The Wellington Trades Hall Council objects to the Waihi miners receiving support from Australia because the strike is endorsed and supported by the N.Z. Federation of Labor—a federation of unions which repudiates what the Wellington Trades Council calls "our industrial legislation."

When it is remembered that N.Z. "industrial legislation" was passed by the Liberals, the attitude of the Wellington and Sydney Labor Councils is seen in its true perspective. They defend and endorse the legislation of the enemies of Labor—the Liberals. The Liberal anti-labor legislation becomes "our industrial legislation" to the Labor Councils of Wellington and Sydney.

If the legislation passed by the Liberals suits the Wellington and Sydney Labor Councils, they should retire from politics and withdraw their support from the political Labor Parties who oppose the Liberals and all their legislation.



THEIR "GLORIOUS FUTURE."

Lord Denman said recently that the Compulsory Training System made a glorious future possible for the boys.

The Liberal industrial legislation of N.Z. and the Labor industrial legislation of Australia furnish an interesting comparison. It is hard to distinguish one from the other, and it is not to be wondered at that Liberals and Laborites constantly squabble over its authorship.

If we compare present-day industrial legislation with that which is quoted in the first few paragraphs of these notes, there is a fundamental similarity in it all. It all has one end in view—the repression of the workers in the interests of the master class.

Under the N.S. Wales Industrial Arbitration Act of 1912, 67 wharf-laborers were charged and prosecuted on July 25, "for that they did at or near the North Coast Company's wharf, Sydney, last Thursday, take part in a strike," etc.

When the court opened, the scene and court setting was the same as that of the courts wherein workmen were prosecuted centuries ago. The class-conscious judge was there, with other court officials, armed with statutes full of the old spirit of tyranny.

Two kinds of men were represented in the wharf laborers' case in the Arbitration Court. They represented the two sides in the great class struggle. On the one side there were toil-battered forms, parched skin, and a meagre look, as though the food bill showed a balance on the wrong side. On the other side, the men walked erect with sleek faces and contented looks. One section represented the working class; the other the capitalist class.

The judge remarked: "The Attorney-General is represented by Counsel. Legally, Mr. Holman is in Court." The Labor Minister's legal double sat amongst the exploiters, plotting how to penalise the wharf laborers.

The Labor Minister was elected to parliament by the working class, who expected him to fight on their side, in their interests, but here he was, fighting against them. In a few months, the workers will be invited to "Roll up and vote again for Mr. Holman."

In a few months the trades unionists will hold their annual Eight Hours' celebration. They will have a mighty procession, headed by triumphal bands of music and waving banners. They will hold a feast and invite members of the Labor Ministry, and, as likely as not, Mr. Holman will deliver an eloquent oration on the trades unionism, the victories it has won, and the grand success of the Eight-Hour movement. Yet here he is to-day prosecuting men who are compelled to work sometimes continuously for twenty-four hours.

Once men engage to work cargo they must stick to the task until it is completed. Since it was an advantage to their exploiters, the men were paid off at the lunch hour on Tuesday. Because they did not crawl for a job on Thursday, Mr. Holman's representative had the audacity to charge them—under the Labor Party's Industrial Act—with the ancient crime of striking. Britons ever shall be slaves—if Mr. Holman has his way.

Quoth Mr. Wise, K.C., who represented the strikers: "Once a man works for the North Coast Company, he hasn't a soul to call his own. He is a preference man." When the Company's petty boss wants labor, to load or unload a ship, he first calls the able-bodied, experienced men, and later the less efficient. The first called are known as "preference men."

In Britain the "Press Gang" was once an established institution. The military in those days had the legal right to arrest any able-bodied worker, compel him to drill, and send him to war in the interests of the

predatory ruling class. They could tear him from his family—from his aged parents, or his wife and children. The system was cursed out of existence, and to-day British people look back with horror on the doings in the days of the press gang.

In Australia we have never had a press gang taking the adult bread-winner from his home and family. We do things far differently than the British did of old. All we do is to elect a Labor Party to Parliament to represent the working class, and this Parliamentary Labor Party makes a law giving the military authorities the power to tear the boy of 12 years old from his parents, from his school teacher, from his play-ground. The old press gang tackled the adults; the new one wasn't game to do that, so it instituted a system of kidnapping.

This kidnapping Conscription Act never had the direct approval of the people. It was foisted upon them by fraud, and is being maintained by force. While the people slept in fancied security, this act was concocted by scheming politicians and militarists, who talked of the certainty of invasion and the loss of our liberties while they were stealing them from us.

The Conscription Act places our civil liberties in the hands of the military Moloch. Once we are thoroughly in its grip our political and industrial powers are gone, and though we elect men to Parliament, they will be rendered powerless by the military authority. To guard against an improbable invasion from without, we are thus submitting to a more certain invasion by the enemies within.

The people have listened to graphomaniacs who repeated a lot of fine talk about a "citizen defence force" which should only be used to repel invasion. But all the talk of defending the people from the "Asiatic hordes" is as so much dust thrown in their eyes. The army will not be a "citizen defence force." It will be an army of conscript slaves, to be used in the interests of the exploiting class.

According to Section 4 of the Conscription Act, "any offence against this Act, or the Army Act, is a military offence, and any member of the Defence force charged with any offence against this Act may be tried and punished either by court martial or by a civil court." As militarism grows stronger very few cases will be allowed to go before the civil courts. Most military offenders will be tried by court martial.

Under the Conscription Act, a few officers sitting at a table constitute the Military Board, with power to draw up regulations. These regulations, when signed by the Governor General, are gazetted, and become law. Any conscript who breaks any of these regulations, has committed a military offence, and may be tried by court martial. We are thus under martial law as surely as if the country was at war with some other nation.

If we hark back once more to the days when our forefathers had to fight against the most cunning acts of legislation made to tie them down to industrial slavery, we can see all the links between that legislation and such legislation as the Conscription Act. We are placed under martial law as though we were at war. Why? Because the ruling master class is at war with the working class, and is making careful plans to ensure victory for itself.

The militarist has captured the schools. The junior cadet regulations state that every boy between the ages of 12 and 14 must receive daily instruction at an approved centre. The Military Board is to decide what are approved centres, and the Boards' officer will declare any school he chooses inefficient in its training. This gives the Board power to harass the school-master who does not support conscription. In the State schools, or denominational colleges, the Military Board may render impossible the position of any master who incurs its dislike by opposing militarism. The conscript boy is thus mind and body the slave of the militarist. No conscript can protest against the Act, nor send communications to the press without permission. The Act says soldiers and officers shall not raise a discussion in public.

The International Socialist

Journal of Revolutionary Socialism and Industrial Unionism.

Owned and controlled by the International Socialists.

Subscription: Australia, 4s per year, 1s per quarter. Postage added to other countries.

H. E. HOLLAND, Editor.

O. W. JORGENSEN, Manager.

Office: 115 GOULBURN STREET, SYDNEY.

A Blue Mark through this paragraph indicates that YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL EXPIRE WITH NEXT ISSUE.

A Red Mark indicates that your Subscription must be renewed AT ONCE, if you desire the delivery of the paper to continue.

In future a business that can only exist by the starvation of its workers will have to be suppressed as a public nuisance.

—JEROME K. JEROME.

War and Peace.

THE Russo-Japanese alliance well illustrates the barefaced impudence of the international capitalists. For half a century Russian and Japanese capitalists have been operating in Manchuria, and a few years ago their scheming culminated in a bloodthirsty war when the people of the two countries were skillfully incited to rush at each other with all the ferocity of the most savage animals of an African jungle. The workers of the two countries had no real grievance against each other. They were simply the blind forces at the disposal of the cunning and unscrupulous conspirators who were using them. They knew nothing of what they were fighting about, and soon forgot any animosity that the war might have left as an aftermath. While the people have been thus forgetting, the "diplomats" have been busy, and with the utmost contempt for the national prejudices which they once so vigorously stirred up, they have entered into an alliance under which they agree to support each other's predatory enterprises in Manchuria.

The outcome of the Boer war—the introduction of cheap Chinese and other labor, and the ultimate return to Boer government—made a laughing-stock of every worker who rushed to the "support of the flag," but the Russo-Jap alliance makes a fool of the whole world. When we recall the admiration for the "brave little brown man," and the contempt for the "brutal bear of the north," the world-wide, heated controversies, the good wishes for Japan's success, in which all newspaper readers indulged in the days of the war, and then reflect that the whole thing was worked up by a few men of "interests" who had the public on the run, we can only feel pity for those who are carried away by the glamor of war. It is sad to reflect that the workers can one day be made to rush upon each other with all the fury of beasts, and then on the next be made to embrace each other and join hands in peace. Humanity presents a sorry figure when war or peace are under the control of a handful of international conspirators.

Bondage and Subjection.

JEAN JAURES, the French Socialist, writes: "At this moment . . . when governments place more and more at the disposal of privilege and capitalism all their forces, both military and police, in order to suppress the workers who are claiming a little more of their due . . . it is imperative that the organized workers everywhere should signify to the capitalist classes that they have tolerated long enough a regime founded on the bondage and subjection of the producers."

The laboring man has no time to be anything but a machine.
—THOREAU.

War Medals not Wanted.

IN two large strong rooms at Woolwich Dockyard, Woolwich, England, are stored some 50,000 unclaimed South African war medals. Each is engraved with the name of the man to whom it was awarded. These men are not now with the colors, and a staff of clerks and a department armed with medal lists and regimental records are endeavoring to trace them. Three quarters of a million medals were struck for men who flocked to the colors in recent wars, and they were so lightly regarded by the heroes of the Empire that fifty thousand refused to apply for them and are being chased about the world by excited persons who are anxious to pin the badges of folly upon them. The men probably see that when they rushed to save the Empire they did the most foolish thing of their lives, and now object to wear something which plainly says "I was a fool." Now and then a few are seen wearing war medals, but they are either men who get their living in connection with military or naval forces, or are men who are deficient in ability to appreciate the ridiculous. The second-hand dealers in various parts of the empire have done a good trade in war medals, nearly every dealer in metals having a good stock on hand. But there is little sale for them as old silver. They are of value only as medals, for very few care to wear such badges of folly. Someone, not long ago, proposed legislation to save war medals from the dealers, but nothing came of it, so the melting down process continues. Glass beads may yet serve capitalism to delude the innocent colored man, but medals for the victims of war frenzy are at a discount.

Pope and King.

A N.S.W. Labor Minister recently toasted "the Pope and the King" at a Guild breakfast at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. The dreadful news, that the Pope had been put first in the toast, was at once prominently displayed in the columns of the daily newspapers, and a wail of agony went up from thousands of loyal Orange and other nondescript throats. The matter became the question of the hour, and finally became so important that one legislator brought the matter up in N.S.W. Parliament in the form of a question. What the law-maker wanted to know was whether or not the Minister had acted in a proper manner in proposing the toast in such a way. The question was greeted by cheers from the Liberals and hoots from the Labor side, and the Speaker, no doubt seeing a battle royal looming, ruled the matter out of order, on the ground that it was a matter of personal opinion and did not concern the House. This ruling saved the situation, but all the same the truth is out that legislators—especially Labor legislators—have so little interest in things that matter that they can devote their time to squalid squabbles over which should be mentioned first in a toast—Pope or King. A Labor Minister toasting the Pope and the King is a matter for thought for those Laborites who work disinterestedly for the good of their cause in the belief that they are working for the good of the working class. Trefle, and the hooters on the Government side of N.S.W. Parliament, ought to be asked to explain how it comes that they can find time to boost King and Pope and indulge in faction-fighting over them while so many millions of their dupes are in want of protection from the scheming exploiters whose figureheads they are. The "one-step-(aside)-at-a-time" policy of the Labor Party is becoming notorious.

Arbitration in N.Z.

Some Comparisons with the N.S.W. Act.

BY H. E. HOLLAND.

ALL Australian Arbitration Acts have been based on the Arbitration Laws of New Zealand; but a brief comparison of any of the Acts of Australia with New Zealand's present Act will show that we of Australia have out-reactionaried (how will that word do?) the reactionaries.

The first Arbitration Act was passed in New Zealand in 1894, and Parliament seems to have been busily engaged amending it ever since, and its futility as a "settler of industrial disputes" is to-day more apparent than ever.

As the Act now stands any three employers or any fifteen employees may be registered as an industrial union. Thus, in the case of the employers, if a union of 1000 members refuses to register or cancels its registration (as in the case of the Waihi miners), fifteen of its members can register as an industrial union; and they will be legally recognised, and any award made at their behest will legally apply to all the workers in the particular industry concerned.

In the Waihi case, registration was cancelled. Then the bosses got hold of a few men (engine-drivers), and these applied for and were granted registration. They are going to apply for an award, and this, when they get it, will have legal application to the whole industry. It is significant that of the handful of men who have thus scabbed on their fellow-workers, 22 are Freemasons!

Any incorporate company may also be registered as a union of employers.

Industrial agreements may be made for three years (under the N.S.W. Act five years is the period) and awards also for three years.

The Act provides for the appointment of not more than four Conciliation (the Socialists spell it "Con-silly-ation") Commissioners; and the country is divided into eight "industrial districts," each of which is placed under the jurisdiction of one or other of the commissioners. When a dispute arises, the union or employer concerned is required to notify the commissioner for that particular industrial district; the respondents are named, and steps are taken to appoint "assessors" from each side, with the Commissioner as chairman. This is called the Council of Conciliation, and when it fails to end the dispute the matter is referred to the Court of Arbitration.

The Arbitration Court sits for the whole of New Zealand, and consists of a Supreme Court Judge and one employers' representative and one workers' representative. Thus, as is the case in our Arbitration Court, the employers have two-thirds of the representation, although they only constitute 15 per cent of the people.

There is no appeal from the decision of the Arbitration Court except as to jurisdiction.

Under the N.Z. Act a strike is only illegal if the parties are bound by an award. (All strikes are illegal in N.S.W.) If a strike takes place in any industry, every worker who is a party to the strike, and who is bound by an award, is liable to a penalty not exceeding £10 (in N.S.W., £50), the trade union or the employer or union of employers is liable to a £500 penalty (in N.S.W., £1000).

For inciting to or aiding a strike in N.Z., the worker may be fined £10, the union £200. "A gift of money or other valuable thing for the benefit of a party or union engaged in a strike is deemed to be aiding or abetting." In special cases affecting the supply of the necessities of life, such as water, milk, meat, coal, gas, or electricity, or the working of any ferry, tramway, or railway, whether affected by an award

or not, 14 days' notice must be given of the intention to strike, and if this is not done the individual worker may be fined up to £25 and the union up to £500. (In N.S.W. the worker who incites to or aids in a strike may be served with an injunction, and if he disregards this may be sent to jail for six months with or without hard labor! The union may be fined £1000, and all its funds seized to meet the fine).

It will thus be seen that, reactionary and bourgeois as the N.Z. Liberals have been, they have still not been quite so reactionary as our Australian Laborites.

Only the other day the secretary of the Auckland waterside workers was fined £20 for inciting to a strike, and during the next few days 16 of the strikers are to be dealt with. The strike took place before the watersiders had cancelled their registration.

The Year Book gives some instructive figures re the workings of the Arbitration Court. During the year ended March 31, 1911, 539 employers were prosecuted before magistrates for breaches of awards, and 467 convictions were secured—which demonstrates the wholesale way in which awards are disregarded by the employers; one employer was prosecuted for creating a lockout, and there were 68 prosecutions of unionists for striking.

Salaries and expenses in connection with the Arbitration Court ran into £6,842 for the year.

In 1910 there were 118 unions of employers with 4,262 members, and 308 unions of employees with 57,091 members. This shows the employers' proportion as less than 8 per cent, and yet this 8 per cent is given, as I have already said, two-thirds of the representation.

From 1894 to March 31, 1911, there were 42 strikes in New Zealand. [There have been almost that many from March 31, 1911, to the present time.] Of these strikes, the workers fully won their demands in 13, the employers won in 6, and compromises were made in 23. The average duration of these strikes was 10 days; the total number of strikers was 1,565; the total number of men rendered idle by strikes, 2,853; and the approximate "loss in wages" to the workmen is set down as £7 per man [14s per day!] or an aggregate of £19,023. The loss to the employers was £16,378. If we take the Year Book's figures as to the proportion of employers to employees, and admit the workers' losses as £7 per man, the employers' losses would figure out individually at about £1365 each. Which might explain a good deal why the average N.Z. employer hates the strike. Fines totalling £1,708 were inflicted on strikers, and of this amount £1,360 have been collected, apparently leaving 20 per cent to be written off as a bad debt.

When the next Year Book appears a startling tale will be told as to the strikes that eventuated during the year ending March 31, 1912.

Little Definitions.

CAPITALISM.—The least possible number of men, for the longest possible day, at the lowest possible wages for the utmost possible toil, in the cheapest possible surroundings, for the greatest possible profits.

SOCIALISM.—The employment of all men for the shortest possible day, in the best possible surroundings, for the greatest possible good of the human race.

The higher selfishness recognises that one can only be truly prosperous if all are so. It accords freedom to the mass in order that the individual may be free. The vulgar believe that the few can be happy and prosperous if the many are enslaved.

For the Right to Strike.

BY A. JAMES.

TWENTY years of strenuous political Labor agitation has made Mr. Holman Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. He now uses his power to crush the lives of those who raised him, with the vilest coercive legislation that every disgraced the statute book; for instance:—

"Industrial Arbitration Act, part 6, section 45. (1) If any person does any act or thing in the nature of a strike, or takes part in a strike, or instigates to or aids in any of the abovementioned acts, the court may order him to pay a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds."

(2) Where a person is, under this section, ordered to pay a penalty, the court shall order that the amount of such penalty shall be a charge on any moneys which are then, or which may thereafter be due to such person, from his then or future employer for wages or in respect of work done."

Attorney Holman swiftly brings the weight of the bewigged judicial system to confiscate, if possible, the earnings of some ninety-seven members of the Wharf Laborers' Union for resisting and defeating the North Coast Navigation Company in a struggle for bread. The men concerned were prosecuted "for that they did at or near the said company's wharf, Sydney, Thursday, 18th inst., take part in a strike committed by certain wharf laborers in the employ of the company referred to, with a view to enforce compliance by the company with a demand, that certain sailors should not be employed in conjunction with the wharf laborers in the holds of the steamship Burringbar."

The case is interesting as being the first attempt by the Labor Government to bring the infamous clauses above quoted into operation; to suppress strikes by means of extorting, with the assistance of employers, a portion of the strikers' wages until the penalty is paid. Never was invented a more revolting means of enforcing slavery than by bringing semi-starvation to women and children because men fight for their class.

The prosecuting counsel representing Labor-member Holman maintained that, as Robert Waller, defendant, had been selling himself daily to the North Coast Company prior to July 16, he was bound to continue doing so after that date; at the same time reserving to the company when it suited them, the right to dispense with one, or all of the workmen. On Tuesday, 16th, at 12 noon, the whole of the wharf laborers employed on the Burringbar were dismissed owing to steam having run down. Because the men claimed to right to refuse re-employment, after one-and-a-half day's idleness, W. Holman would uphold the principles of unionism (for the boss) by forcing the men to work under scab conditions. In few countries is to be found such an anti-working class government as in New South Wales.

The legal definition of a strike is a "cessation of work by any number of employees acting in combination, or a concerted refusal by any number of employees to continue to work for an employer, with a view to compel their employer to accept terms of employment, or to enforce compliance with demands made by them, or other employees on employers." The proceedings at the union meeting on July 17 leaves no doubt as to concerted action, to wit: "Mr. Wood and Mr. Morgan told Mr. Bell, the managing director of the company, that the wharf laborers had passed a mandatory resolution to the effect that they would not work on the North Coast Company's wharves, whilst that company continued to employ sailors in the hold of their ships." But the more difficult task is to connect any individual unionist with the strike as none of them was under any legal obligation to work for the Company on the Thursday morning.

Robert Waller, with whom the prosecutions commenced, was acquitted on the ground that there was no evidence to show that he "was involved. The case, as presented, failed to show that Waller took part in the strike." The only respect in which the cases of other defendants differ from that Mr. Waller is that when Small, the company's timekeeper appeared on the morning of July 18 to engage men, Waller was not present:—

Small: "The men were a certain distance from the gate."

His Honor: "Was Waller there?"

Witness: "I am not certain about Waller."

Thus not only was Waller absent, but the other accused were at most "a certain distance away," so how can the court find that they were present.

From the viewpoint of justice the act is a grotesque distortion, and from a legal standpoint, in this case at least, it must be remembered as a farcical medley of legal twists, a product of the warped mental and moral faculties of one-time working men, who have degenerated into mealy-mouthed flunkys of slave drivers and parasites.

The Capitalist never goes to war. He sends the worker to stop bullets. Workers, don't be made a target.

Melbourne Notes.

Glutting the Labor Market and Recruiting Scabs.

BY J. R. WILSON.

SOME time ago, a deputation from Melbourne's unemployed waited upon the Trades' Hall Council, requesting that learned and respectable assembly to get a move on, since the matter of demonstrating that there was an unemployed army, was being left to a handful of men handicapped in a hundred different ways, which made it largely impossible for them to organise a sufficiently large number to demonstrate once and for all to the Melbourne Plutocrats of the Queen City (who denied their presence) that some thousands of men were without work, and many without food or shelter. The remarks of one of the deputation was keenly resented—particularly as reference was made to the fact that sooner or later there would be a panic amongst the workers, as the result of the fact that this jobless army were being considerably augmented by the criminal actions of the Murray-Watt Government of the State, as well as the various State Governments of the Commonwealth, even including the alleged Labor Government of N.S.W.

Reference to the sacred Labor Party naturally brought a hornets' nest about the speaker's head, and the parrot cries of infuriated Laborites echoed through the building to the effect, "you're here to make a political effect, you're here to make a political speech," while one hatchet faced individual, with the voice of a bull and the brains of a calf, bellowed "are you unemployed," "what union do you belong to," etc., etc. After the storm had subsided, the deputation were formally thanked, and dispersed.

Some of the deputation opined that the last word had been said, the Trades' Hall was too respectable, and nothing would be done. However, they were mistaken, as later in the evening, this assembly composed of M.L.A.s, and those who aspire to become political saviours, actually resolved that a demonstration should be held in the beginning of last week. It came off, to the surprise of many, when upwards of 1000 able-bodied men, young and old, skilled and unskilled, native born and foreign, marched in solemn procession through the public streets to the Premier's office, and demanded an audience.

The Premier, however, refused to discuss the matter at the moment, as no arrangements had been made etc. With the remainder of the proceedings it is not my intention to deal. Socialists are well aware that full advantage was taken by the bogus Labor element, and will be in future, to make political capital out of the event, but the fact that 1000 men willing to work, and denied the opportunity, parading the streets, demonstrating that they are the victims of our insane commercial system, ought to make the sleepy or thoughtless element of our population ask some pertinent questions, since the ranks of those men are to be considerably augmented from week to week by the thousands of new chums arriving with every boat. Moreover, the demonstration gives an emphatic denial to the lying hirelings of the Plute press, with their precious clap-trap, anent the Labor Bureau (that scab recruiting agency) placing all those in positions who register.

As regards placing those in positions who register, there is ample evidence to prove that what is taking place goes to show that the Bureau agents are in league with the employers, who provide the new chums (as the immigrant is called) with employment for a week or two, at the end of that time dispensing with his services, when another new arrival or batch of arrivals takes his place. Not merely is that done, but every effort is made to provide the servile elements amongst them, with permanent billets at the expense of the unionists who refuse to crawl to boss or foreman, as well as refusing to undersell their fellow wage slaves.

The following culled from the *Labor Call*, the original of which is in the hands of a member of the State parliamentary Labor Party, dismisses all doubt on that point, as well as proving up to the hilt, that the Industrial Workers' Union, to give it its Sunday name, is a strike-breaking and scab recruiting agency with which the union movement will be brought face to face, in more ways than one in the immediate future:

"Unaffiliated with the Trades' Hall Council Objective. A square deal for employer and employee. Independent Working Mens' Club, Labor Bureau. J. T. Packer, Organising Secretary, Club Rooms and office, 226 Flinders Street, Melbourne, February 13, 1912.—Private and confidential. To the manager of the Tramway Co. Dear Sir,—The executive officer of the Australian Independent Workers' Federation are keenly interested in the present position of the tramway employees throughout the Commonwealth. We are daily receiving communication from local tramway men. We are anxious to know if at its present juncture we can be of any service to you in securing of reliable labor, in the event of any trouble accruing.

We always have a large number of men of different trades, registered on our employment list. Every effort is being made to weed out the undesirables. I will be

pleased if you think we can assist you in any way, and will have a private interview with you at your convenience. Awaiting the favor of a reply, I remain, yours respectfully, JOHN T. PACKER."

This type of letter doubtless accounts for the large number of men seen by the writer entering and leaving the Chamber of Manufacturers headquarters. And, by the way, it is as well to remember that it was the employers connected with the Chamber of Manufacturers, who formed this society known as the Independent Workers' Union, as well as prepared the rules for same, that solicited applications for secretaryship, and guaranteed Messrs. Howard and Packer salaries of £300 each per year. And this forsooth is the medium by which a section of new arrivals are provided with work. But let me say I cast no slur on the new arrivals, taking them on the average. There are good and bad amongst them, unionists and time-servers, men and crawlers. Many of them experience the greatest difficulty in finding employment, scores have known since having been dumped into this so-called Labor Paradise, what it is to be hungry, and homeless, friendless, and penniless, and despite it all have never for a moment condemned to act traitorously to their class, and for such men, strangers in a strange land, one cannot help having the most profound respect. But says someone for all this villainy of glutting the Labor market what remedy? For the disease of unemployment, what cure? For the ending of legalised robbery, what must we do?

And the answer is: There is but one way out, and the way lies towards the Socialist Commonwealth, and the day when the expropriators shall be expropriated of the wealth they have wrongfully appropriated from an enslaved working-class. And the action necessary is the concerted action of the wealth producers as a class politically and industrially, when it shall be possible to usher in the grand federation of all humanity by establishing the Socialist Commonwealth, based upon social ownership, social production and social appropriation.

What the Boys Think.

BY SYDNEY PARTIDGE.

I HAVE been trying to get some signatures to a protest against the Compulsory Training Act, and in the course of experiences, which circumstances made necessarily small, I came to the conclusion that the community as a whole are apathetic to the Act except where it touches them closely either through themselves or a near relative. One man has only daughters, and besides was not sure, though of Socialistic inclinations, that the Act was not on the right lines.

A woman without chick or child—or young brother—protested it was the only way to keep out the hordes of heathens waiting a fair opening to pounce down on our shores.

A young woman said it didn't concern them—none of them had to train—they hadn't bothered about it. Suddenly brightening she thought it did the boys good to drill—kept them out of mischief, and they looked well as they marched through the street.

A brisk young man was in favor of it, decidedly; you see he was considerably over age to be grabbed by the press-gang—though illogically he did not favor force.

An old woman, whose heart is always yearning in motherly sympathy over the children, signed gladly.

Then I met a youthful carrier, who in response to a few questions opened his heart as follows:

No, he was safe for awhile, but it would be his turn next. Yes, he had a young brother training. Like it? He was always growling about it—had to go out at night after his work was done, or on Saturday afternoon or all Saturday. His opinion, the elder brother's, was that the boys didn't take no interest in it—they hated it and would learn nothing so long as they were forced. They might like it better, perhaps, if the "dress" was nicer like. Hideously ugly? My word!

The worst of it was the fining for non-attendance at drill. His brother had to be "driven" out. And one night recently when he was at a skating rink he could swear there was quite half a company of boys there too, though it was drill night.

He looked forward with melancholy to the time of his own pressing, and truly hoped the protest would meet with success.

He watches with moody interest the drilling of the present victims, sees their loathing of it in all their insubordination and the insults they level at the officers, who "don't have no mercy on them, but make them march round and round and round." And it aint, he says, as if a fellow wouldn't take up arms in defence of his home anyhow, if it come to that, but all this "force" business he considers futile and detestable, especially as the perpetrators of the Act keep so snugly and safely out of it themselves.

I spoke of the Socialists and what they were doing to get that infamous act repealed.

Yes, he signed gladly, and went away with his sore heart a bit soothed at the thought that there are people who are trying to help him out of his sorry plight.

Open Column.

Socialism and Religion.

IN issue of 6th inst. your correspondent Jayem takes exception to my remarks on above subject, which appeared in issue of June 15th. When I expressed the opinion that it was unnecessary that Socialists should attack Christianity I had two reasons in view, which perhaps I should have stated. In the first place, if a man clearly understands the meaning and vast import of the three great outstanding truths of modern science, viz., the eternity of matter, the vast antiquity of man, and evolution, he cannot possibly believe in Christianity either as a theoretical or practical theory of the universe and life.

Secondly, as a consequence of the above modern conceptions, it is really a waste of time discussing miracles, the Fall, the Atonement, and such-like impossibilities. Enough that we take up and maintain the scientific conception of the universe which religious people cannot afford to ignore. To descend into biblical criticism is to invite endless discussions on trivial subjects to the detriment of purely economic and scientific truths. For instance, Christian morals and the much-be-praised Sermon on the Mount admittedly impracticable precepts, are only saved from universal rejection by Christians by their belief in the divinity of their so-called author and his theory that God is jealously watchful of the interests of those who obey his commandments. But the scientific truths previously enunciated cuts the foundation from supernaturalism and of course a code of impossible morals built on that false foundation collapses and is buried in the ruins of the unscientific theories which gave it support and without which it could not have existed.

It is almost needless to add that either mythologically or morally Christianity gave nothing new to the world. Besides, Evolution traces the origin and growth of human morals and indeed reduces everything material and organic under the rule of natural law. No; I think minute and painstaking Biblical criticism is largely wasted time and energy. Of course I don't deny the critics are doing good work, but the average man and woman lacks time to read a tithe of the works appearing on the subject.—Yours fraternally,

FRANK SUTHERLAND.

The Arts of Death.

ON the arts of life man invents nothing; but in the arts of death he outdoes nature herself, and produces by machinery all the slaughter of plague, pestilence, and famine.

The peasant to-day eats and drinks what was eaten and drank by the peasants of ten thousand years ago, and the house he lives in has not altered so much in a thousand centuries as the fashion of a lady's bonnet in a score of weeks. But when he goes out to slay he carries a marvel of mechanism that lets loose at the touch of his finger all the hidden molecular energies, and leaves the javelin, the blowpipe of his fathers, far behind.

In the arts of peace man is a bungler. I have seen his cotton factories and the like, with machinery that a greedy dog could have invented if it had wanted money instead of food. I know his clumsy typewriters and bungling locomotives, tedious bicycles and autos; they are toys compared to the Maxim gun, the submarine torpedo boat.

There is nothing in man's industrial machinery but his greed and sloth; his heart is in his weapons. This marvellous force of Life of which you boast is a force of Death; Man measures his strength by his destructiveness. What is his religion? An excuse for hating me. What is his law? An excuse for hanging me. What is morality? An excuse for consuming without producing. What is his art? An excuse for gloating over pictures. What are his politics? Either the worship of a despot, because a despot can kill, or parliamentary cock-fighting.—George Bernard Shaw, in "Man and Superman."

The capitalist never thinks he is getting on if he doesn't make more each year than he did the previous one. Illogically he thinks the worker should always be satisfied with the same subsistence wage. He thinks the workers are sent into the world to produce servants for the service of the rich.

If the elephant knew his power no man could lead or drive him. If the workers knew their power they could also refuse to be led or driven. They could command wealth and comfort for all.

People who urge you not to be too extreme in your opinions are generally those who have no opinions of their own. They go with the current.

The King of Spain has conferred the Order of the Golden Fleece on the Prince of Wales to mark the latter's coming of age. Golden Fleece is particularly good as a dark hint to the Fleece.

As to Political Parties.

BY F. G. JOHNSON.

"THE I.W.W. is the economic organisation of the working class; it has no political affiliation, and is controlled by no political party."

These words speak for themselves, they express with an exactness that none can misunderstand the true attitude of the I.W.W. towards all existing political parties without exception. And that is what they are intended to do.

The statement lacks nothing in definiteness; it means what it says, and it says what the I.W.W. means.

That this is true and undeniable is sufficiently proven by the fact that since it first appeared, in 1908, not a single member of the I.W.W. has been known to object to it as a brief and specific declaration of our attitude to political parties and political affiliation. Moreover, it is in perfect accord with preamble, which says we do not endorse or seek the endorsement of ANY political party.

The I.W.W. is the ECONOMIC organisation of the working class.

In spite of this fact, transparent to all whose habit of mind is not to misconstrue and confuse, there are those who persist in ignoring it by using their connection with the organisation to support a political propaganda. The result is that wherever this occurs the work of industrial organisation drags, the minds of the workers are confused and their class interests done irreparable harm.

It is now coming to be quite generally recognised that the organisation of paramount and immediate importance to the working class is not the political, but the economic. Even THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST has pointed out to the workers, time after time: "THERE CAN NEVER BE ANY TRUE SOLIDARITY AND EFFECTIVE ACTION UNTIL THE WORKERS GET TOGETHER on the INDUSTRIAL FIELD."

This is the educational propaganda of the Industrial Workers of the World. We accept this, and THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST has reiterated it over and over again as reflecting the position of the I.W.W., then every industrial unionist will carefully guard the interests of the economic organisation, insisting that it shall everywhere control its own affairs, and forward its own propaganda at its own meetings, to the exclusion of all interference in such affairs or meetings, by anyone seeking to make the I.W.W. an attachment of any political party, or to use it for the purpose of confusing the workers whose interests, near and remote, are best promoted by the economic organisation.

It is only necessary to add that, affirming as we do, the primary importance of the economic organisation, we do not deny the utility of political action in its place.

The I.W.W. denies the claims of any political organisation in existence to be its political "reflex," and this it does in the interests of the workers in the interests of Industrial Unionism, in the interest of a united and intelligent propaganda.

The indispensable safe-guarding of the I.W.W. does not rest with any political party; that is a function that lies entirely with members of the I.W.W. itself.

The "Defence" Act.

ESQUIRE at the Commonwealth Offices, Sydney, for copies of the above Act have elicited the fact that the supply ran out some weeks ago, and the officials have since been unable to procure any from Melbourne. Meanwhile, thousands of boys are being prosecuted under the Act which they cannot obtain. The Act gives the Military Board power to frame laws; to accuse the trainee of breaking them; to send him before a court martial; to inflict a military punishment; and to build military places of punishment such as barracks and fortresses. Senator Pearce, on the 4th July, 1912, recommended that all who had failed to make up their drills should be committed to barracks and fortresses. There is no appeal from a military decision to a civil court. Such are only a few of the powers of the militarists under this Act, yet when the public want to see it, and offer to buy it, they cannot obtain a single copy in Sydney. From this it is only a step to military punishment for anyone caught reading or expounding it.

George III. and God.

SAID George the Third in 1775: "The rights and interests of the American colonists will be looked after and cared for, not by the agitators and rebels, but by the kind Christian gentlemen whom I, as the direct representative of God, have appointed to look after my lands in the western world."

The imported drill instructors are wiser than the average Australian—they get well paid for their jobs, while the rank and file do their will.

The Socialist Postbag.

F.C.N. (Cairns, Q.), "I understand that you send a dozen newspapers to any new address for the sum of 8d."

Very good.
But one copy of a newspaper of your sort is no good to a stranger.

It is not enough.
He gets one, and wonders what it is all about, and why he gets it. He finds something in it, and throwing it away says, "rot, they are mad!"

Second one comes along and he says, "This thing again! What's in it this time?"

He sees something he thinks is not too bad.

Third one comes along, and he finds a new idea in it for him.

He begins to look forward for it to arrive.

Fourth one comes, and he is interested.

Then it stops.

Just at the right place too.

I also think that with free copies a notice should be inserted with one paper. After this style perhaps:

"Supplement to THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST:

Understanding that you are interested in advanced thought, this paper is sent you by a friend.

If you find anything in it that you don't agree with, rest assured that you are behind the times.

Don't stagnate; come up into line.

The subscription is 1s per year.

Will you please send four copies (one each week) to the following addresses. I enclose 1s 6d in stamps.

[F.C.N. is evidently a shrewd observer of the psychological effect of the I.S. No doubt he is right, and his advice is worth adopting by those who distribute literature. If the first, second, and third copies of the I.S. fail to arouse a patient, doctor him with a fourth. The chloroform of the church and capitalism is a powerful narcotic, but the I.S. is a sure antidote if persisted in. The writer has known it to work wonders even with persons who used to go regularly to church on Sundays—to sleep.]

A.U. (Adelaide), "While sending my subscription along for the *International Socialist*, I may as well include a few shillings for the press fund. I am sure it is needed. Two shillings for the paper, and four shillings for the press fund.

On the same occasion I am sending you an article, should it not be printed, would you kindly return it to me at my expense. I would write more often, but I know that space in the *International Socialist* does not permit so, and let us hope that it soon will. You know, comrade, that I am in business in Adelaide, struggling along; perhaps with the same idea as all poor fools—to make money.

With best of good wishes to all Sydney comrades.

[A.U. is right. The space available in the I.S. is pitifully small in view of the demands upon it. The cause that the I.S. champions is the greatest of all, yet when we look at the support accorded the capitalist press, and compare it with the support which the I.S. receives, we are struck with amazement. But we are not dismayed. We have the thinkers with us and are slowly forging ahead. Ere long we hope to enlarge the paper and its scope. In the meantime, let all comrades help as some of our correspondents are doing and we at this end will do our part.]

F.N. (Broadwater) writes: "I read in a copy of the *Socialist*, July 6th, that a person can obtain a bundle of papers for distribution by sending along 8d stamps, so if that advt. still holds good I would like you to send along one lot for distributing among the mill hands here.

I have been buying this paper while in Sydney, and to my way of thinking it is absolutely the only paper that is worth taking any interest in.

In the event of my application being too late, please send along 8d copies (one each week), and I will do my best in recommending same to my workmates here at the C.S.R. Sugar Mill.

In conclusion, I might say if you at the Party hear of anyone coming this way in search of work, advise them not to do so, as the managers here this morning turned quite a number of men out of the barracks. These men were waiting to start work at the mill, which commences crushing tomorrow."

[The bundle system is still in force and will be for all who want to do good propaganda work. One hundred comrades sending 8d per week would give us twelve hundred more circulation, perhaps three or four thousand more readers. This number carefully distributed in mills, mines, and workshops would have good results. We want specially to reach country workers, who cannot otherwise obtain Socialist literature. Now comrades, a hundred more like F.N.]

The soldiers is a hired assassin whose business is to make widows and orphans.

To be able to make more orphans and widows than anyone else is an indication of successful soldiering.

A.S.P. News & Notes.

National Executive.

MEETING of Ad. Council held on July 27, 1912, at 115 Goulburn-street, Sydney.

Delegates present: Whitmore James, and Riley (Sydney), Bowen (Balmmain), McInnes (Clifton), Drummell (International Socialist Club), Jorgensen (manager), Winspear (acting-editor and treasurer), Roche and Slade (trustees), A. Holland (Leichhardt-Annandale), and Denford (acting-gen. sec.).

Com. Riley elected chairman.

A. Holland's credentials were received as delegate for Leichhardt-Annandale.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

Correspondence: From A. Rees, Brisbane, re general matters and donation of 10s for printing plant. Received.

From H. J. Cruickshank asking that particulars re militarism and the jailing of boys be forwarded to Messrs. Kerr and Co., Chicago. Resolved that the matter be left in the hands of comrade Winspear to be dealt with.

From Central Melbourne Branch re letter from Ad. Council on financial position of paper, and proposals for dealing with same. Received. Balance sheet to be forwarded.

Manager's weekly report.—Income: Press fund 8s 4d; agents, £2 15s 5d; sales, 3s 10d; subs., £1 10s; subsidies: Balmmain 4s, Newtown 4s, Adelaide £1 8s; L.S. Club, £2. Total, £8 17s 7d.

Sales of literature, 6s.

Expenditure: Petty cash, £1 1s; wages, £6 10s; rent, £1 10s; engraving, 9s. Total, £9 13s.

Resolved that the accounts be paid.

Resolved that in future the paper be linotyped instead of being hand set, and that the services of the compositor (A. Holland) be dispensed with, making a saving of £1 per week.

The Council then adjourned.

Branch secretaries should address all A.S.P. communications to H. L. Denford, acting-general secretary, 115 Goulburn-street, Sydney.

Sydney.

The wet weather still continues and has interfered with literature sales and the Branch finances. The executive finds it necessary to appeal to members and friends to come to the rescue. Members are asked to pay August contributions in advance if possible in order to tide the Branch over the financial position. Special efforts will be made to make the financial position sound in the near future, but funds are needed to tide these things over until these efforts are brought to a successful issue.

Comrade Rutherford departs for New Zealand this week, and he will be able to do good work there. He intends to return to Sydney in a few months' time.

Roche lectured on Sunday night on "The Organisation of Socialist Society," and a lively discussion followed. Comrade Webb, the president of the New Zealand Federation of Labor, addressed the meeting and his remarks were highly appreciated.

Branch Fund.—Previously acknowledged, £56 9s 11d. Collected Wednesday night, 3s 11d; collected Sunday night, 18s 9d. Total, £57 12s 7d.

Correction, Branch Fund.—Last week's acknowledgement of Friend, 2s 6d, should have been Friend, Cessnock, 2s 6d.

Newtown.

Newtown Branch held its usual meeting on Thursday night, when it was decided that comrade Slade debate with Mr. Bonner on "Christianity versus Freethought," next Thursday night, Aug. 1st, at 8 o'clock, at the room, St. George's Hall, and on Sunday night, August 4th, at the Industrial Hall, Union-street, Newtown, an anti-military meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. Every one cordially invited.

The usual Saturday and Sunday nights' meetings were very successful, with good sales of literature.—ANNIE DUFFIELD, secretary.

International Socialist Liedertafel Anniversary.

The I.S. Liedertafel celebrated its 12th anniversary on Friday evening, July 26, at the New Masonic Hall, Sydney. The large hall was well filled, and an excellent programme of songs, dances, and sketches was well carried out. The singing and characterisation showed that the Liedertafel has at its command talent of fine artistic merit.

Obituary.

Hermann Diedericks, a staunch Socialist and member of the International Socialist Club of Sydney was buried at Rookwood on Tuesday, 23.7.12. Wreaths were sent by the I.S. Club, the Liedertafel, and Mr. and Mrs. Dierks. Representatives from the Club and Liedertafel attended the funeral.

Leichhardt-Annandale.

The usual meeting was held on Saturday night, when Knight, Roche, and Quinton spoke to an attentive audience. G. YOUNG, sec.

Melbourne.

On Sunday, 21st, the usual Yarra Bank meeting was held. The meeting may be described as an unusual one, inasmuch as Mr. Lewis, secretary of the Carters' and Drivers' Union, took the platform for upwards of 15 minutes to answer J. R. Wilson, who had been exposing the treachery of the alleged Labor Party in reference to the immigration policy. Needless to say no attempt was made to refute what had been said, but a jumbled harangue was given by Mr. Lewis about himself, the Labor Party, and his official position. The reply given to Mr. Lewis created considerable comment—one S.L.P. er stating that Wilson didn't merely answer Lewis effectively, but used a scythe.

In the evening a most interesting address was delivered in the Party headquarters by Mr. J. A. Sullivan, his subject being, "Charles Dickens and his works."

On Wednesday evening there was a large attendance at the general meeting of the Party, and it was decided a statement of income and expenditure re the paper should be asked for since taken over by the branches. Also that the word Central be deleted from rule 1, and that the general meetings of the Party be held monthly.

The Sunday School, under the control of A. Victor, continues to forge ahead; also the choir, conducted by F. Vernon.

Members will learn with regret that comrade Leech is confined to bed with an incurable complaint.

Members are asked to buy their tickets early for our third monthly dance.—J. R. WILSON, sec.

Please note address: Central Melbourne Branch, Australasian Socialist Party, 272 Flinders-street, opposite Flinders-street Railway Station, Melbourne.

Socialist Publishing and Jobbing Plant.

During the week the following amounts have been received on account: H. Stone 2s, Sydney Partridge 2s, O. W. Jorgensen 2s, D. Norton 1s, B. Zeraich 2s 6d, L. Black 2s, A. McInnes 2s 6d. Total for week, 11s.

Total amount received, £15 10s 0d.

Press and Maintenance Fund.

Already acknowledged, £16 2s 11d. Collected at Club Social, 3s 4d; J. F. Reid, 1s; F. Heard, 2s. Total, £16 11s 3d.

Sydney Propaganda Fixtures.

SATURDAY.

Rozelle—M. Moore, Willis, Talbot, Leichhardt—Young, Knight, Slade, Hokin, Newtown—Duffield, Walsh, Martin, Bathurst-street—Quinton, Roche, Brown.

SUNDAY.

Domain—Whitmore (chair), Brown, Jones, and Walsh.

Market-street—Quinton (chair), Slade, Goulburn-street—Cassell (chair), Roche, Rozelle—C. Moore, Sloan, Bowen.

Balmmain—Talbot, Willis, M. Moore, Newtown—Martin, Duffield, Walsh.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7.

Socialist Hall, Park-street—Comrade G. Slade lectures on "Why the Church opposes Socialism."

SUNDAY, AUG. 11.

Socialist Hall, 37 Park-street—Comrade Willis lectures on "Defence."

Answers to Correspondents.

J.G. Glenbrook; C.L. Austimmer; C.G.B. Cawarral, Queensland; T.J. West Wallend.—Subs. received.

J.C.P. Beauderest, Queensland.—Received. Thank.

F.M. Auburn.—Copies of the Act not available, but will endeavor to obtain the information for you.

"The Crime of Conscription"

BY H. E. HOLLAND.

Price 3d, post paid; per dozen, 2s.

Order from the Manager, 115 Goulburn-street, Sydney.

JOB PRINTING.

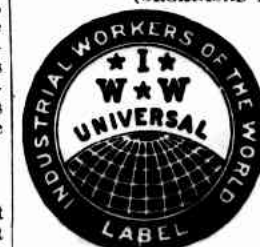
TRY THE MARXIAN PRESS.

115 GOULBURN STREET, SYDNEY.

For Job Printing of Every Description at Shortest Notice. Estimates Free.

Industrial Workers of the World.

(ORGANISED 1905.)



Australian Administration: F. Moyle, general sec.-treasurer, Socialist Hall, Wakefield-street, Adelaide.
Sydney Local: Geo. G. Reeve, sec.-treasurer, 222 Cumberland-st., Sydney.
Auckland (N.Z.) Local: C.T. Reeve, sec.-treasurer, Queen's Buildings, Wellesley-street.

Christchurch Local: S. Kingsford, sec.-treas., 8 Judd's Buildings, Christchurch, N.Z.

This organisation stands for industrial action only, and is not affiliated with any parliamentary party whatsoever, nor with any body other than an industrial organisation.

Printed and published by Henry Edmund Holland, for the Australasian Socialist Party, at 115 Goulburn-street, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.